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Moree has a boll at trade show

By SHANNA ROWLANDS

INCREASED support was evident from both exhibitors and farmers when a return crowd of about 2000 visitors passed through the gates of the two-day Australian Cotton Trade Show at Moree last week, according to organiser, Brian O'Connell.

"Exhibitor numbers, particularly on the major outdoor machinery sites, were up from the 2007 numbers, while we tallied grower numbers to also be up by nearly 40 per cent," he said.

As promised there was a strong representation from both cotton

and grain industries, which included more than 150 suppliers ranging from heavy machinery to banking, with an emphasis on research and extension.

The event's presentation evening was attended by 260 people, with the Gwydir Valley Cotton Grower Association's Michael Murray as master of ceremonies for the night.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Gwydir Valley Cotton Growers Association Rural Doctors Medical Scholarship, which was won by Sam Fogarty, a second-year University

of Queensland medical student, originally from Toowoomba.

His ties to the Gwydir include his grandfather, Robert Long, who was one of Croppa Creek's original dryland cotton growers.

The three-year scholarship, sponsored by Monsanto, is worth \$15,000 (\$5000 each year for three years), and attracted 60 applicants.

An impressive \$18,800 was raised during the evening through a charity auction, in aid of the Westpac Rescue Helicopter.



LEFT: Winner of the 2009 Gwydir Valley Cotton Growers Association Rural Doctors Medical Scholarship, Sam Fogarty, a University of Queensland student, with Monsanto's Bec Diprose, and Kate Sullivan, the previous winner.